

24. A baby bottle makes a good measuring device for adding oil to the front forks. Get one that is graduated in fluid ounces and cubic centimeters. After it has been used for this purpose, do *not* let a small child drink out of it as there will always be an oil residue in it.

25. If it is necessary to make a clutch cover or ignition cover gasket and you do not have a suitable old gasket to use as a guide, you can use the outline of the cover and gasket material to make a new gasket. Apply engine oil to the cover gasket surface. Then place the cover on the new gasket material and apply pressure with your hands. The oil will leave a very accurate outline on the gasket material that can be cut around.

CAUTION

When purchasing gasket material to make a gasket, measure the thickness of the old gasket and purchase gasket material with the same approximate thickness.

26. Heavy grease can be used to hold small parts in place if they tend to fall out during assembly. How-

ever, keep grease and oil away from electrical and brake components.

27. The carburetor is best cleaned by disassembling it and soaking the parts in a commercial carburetor cleaner. Never soak gaskets and rubber parts in these cleaners. Never use wire to clean out jets and air passages. They are easily damaged. Use compressed air to blow out the carburetor only if the float has been removed first.

28. There are many items available that can be used on your hands before and after working on your vehicle. A little preparation prior to getting "all greased up" will help when cleaning up later. Before starting out, work Vaseline, soap or a product such as Invisible Glove (**Figure 5**) onto your forearms, into your hands and under your fingernails and cuticles. This will make cleanup a lot easier. For cleanup, use a waterless hand soap such as Sta-Lube and then finish up with powdered Boraxo and a fingernail brush (**Figure 6**).

WASHING THE VEHICLE

Since the Fourtrax is an off-road vehicle designed for use on construction sites, agricultural areas, etc. and if you are using it often and maintaining it properly, you will spend a lot of time cleaning it. After riding it in extremely dirty areas, wash it down thoroughly. Doing this will make maintenance and service procedures quick and easy. More important, proper cleaning will prevent dirt from falling into critical areas undetected. Failing to clean the vehicle or cleaning it incorrectly will add to your maintenance costs and shop time because dirty parts wear out prematurely. It's unthinkable that your vehicle could break because of improper cleaning, but it can happen.

When cleaning your Honda, you will need a few tools, shop rags, scrub brush, bucket, liquid cleaner and access to water. Many riders use a coin-operated car wash. Coin-operated car washes are convenient and quick, but with improper use, the high water pressures can do more damage than good to your vehicle.

NOTE

A safe biodegradable, non-toxic and non-flammable liquid cleaner that works well for washing your vehicle as well as for removing grease and oil from engine and suspension parts is Simple



Green. Simple Green can be purchased through some supermarkets, hardware, garden and discount supply houses. Follow the directions on the container for recommended dilution ratios.

When cleaning your vehicle, and especially when using a spray type degreaser, remember that what goes on the vehicle will rinse off and drip onto your driveway or into your yard. If you can, use a degreaser at a coin-operated car wash. If you are cleaning your vehicle at home, place thick cardboard or newspapers underneath the vehicle to catch the oil and grease deposits that are rinsed off.

1. Place the vehicle on level ground and set the parking brake.
2. Check the following before washing the vehicle:
 - a. Make sure the gas filler cap is screwed on tightly.
 - b. Make sure the engine oil, front differential, front gear case and final drive unit fill caps are tight.
 - c. Plug the muffler opening with a large cork or rag.
3. Wash the vehicle from top to bottom with soapy water. Use the scrub brush to get excess dirt out of the wheel rims and engine crannies. Concentrate on the upper controls, engine, side panels and gas tank during this wash cycle. Don't forget to wash dirt and mud from underneath the fenders, suspension and engine crankcase.
4. Wrap a plastic bag around the ignition coil and DC-CDI unit. Concentrate the second wash cycle on the frame tube members, outer airbox areas, suspension linkage, rear shock and swing arm.
5. Direct the hose underneath the engine and swing arm. Wash this area thoroughly. If this area is extremely dirty, you may want to lay the vehicle on its side. Protect the finish when laying the vehicle down.
6. The final wash is the rinse. Use cold water without soap and spray the entire vehicle again. Use as much time and care when rinsing the vehicle as when washing it. Built up soap deposits will quickly corrode electrical connections and remove the natural oils from tires, causing premature cracks and wear. Make sure you thoroughly rinse the vehicle off.
7. Tip the vehicle from side-to-side to allow any water that has collected on horizontal surfaces to drain off.

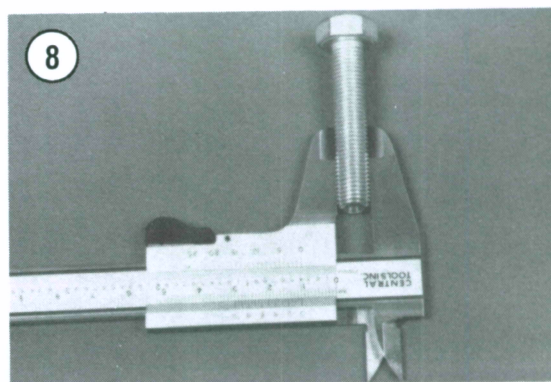
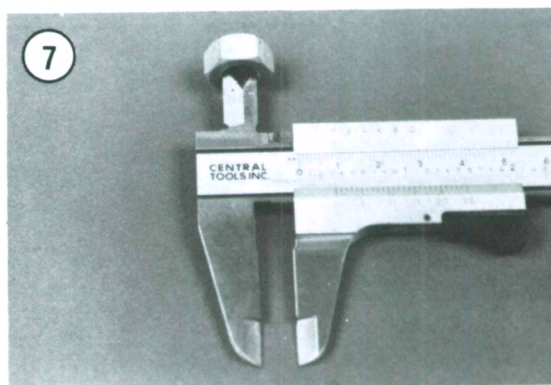
8. If you are washing the vehicle at home, start the engine. Idle the engine to burn off any internal moisture.

9. Before taking the vehicle into the garage, wipe it dry with a soft cloth or chamois. Inspect the machine as you dry it for further signs of dirt and grime. Make a quick visual inspection of the frame and other painted pieces. Spray any worn-down spots with WD-40 or Bel-Ray 6-in-1 to prevent rust from building on the bare metal. When the vehicle is back at your work area you can repaint the bare areas with touch-up paint after cleaning off the WD-40. A quick shot from a touch-up paint can each time you work on the vehicle will keep it looking sharp and stop rust from building up and weakening parts.

TORQUE SPECIFICATIONS

Torque specifications throughout this manual are given in Newton-meters (N·m) and foot-pounds (ft.-lb.).

Existing torque wrenches calibrated in meter kilograms can be used by performing a simple conver-



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